

# WILLIAM KNUTTTEL

## About Us

**William Knuttel Winery is family owned and operated, and proud to have a tight knit crew that we consider part of the family.**

We create both high quality affordable wines as well as ultra-premium single vineyard and specialty wines at our facility in Sonoma, CA, where we also provide custom crush services for our many clients. We distribute locally, nationally, and from time to time, internationally. William Knuttel Winery is a long-time member of Family Winemakers of California and often participates in their Annual Northern California Wine Tastings in San Francisco. We also have a selection of wines year-round at Napa Wine Company's cooperative Tasting Room, located in Oakville.

## Meet Our Team:



### William Knuttel, Proprietor & Winemaker

Long time California wine-maker William Knuttel has concentrated on ultra-premium winemaking for the majority of his career. His philosophy has long been to make a wide range of wines in various styles every vintage, for the simple reason that the number of vintages for any winemaker is quite finite. This wealth of experience has led directly to his adherence to traditional winemaking practices, which lead to balanced, elegant wines that pair well with foods and have excellent aging potential—the hallmarks of classic wine.

Knuttel's winemaking journey began at Saintsbury, where he was winemaker from 1983 to 1996 and established that brand as an international leader in high-end Pinot Noir and Chardonnay in the Burgundian style—and, incidentally, revolutionizing the way those

varieties were produced in California. During his tenure at Saintsbury, Knuttel founded and was owner/winemaker of Tria, producing fine Pinot Noir, Syrah and Zinfandel.

William Knuttel was also Vice President and Winemaker at Chalk Hill Winery from 1996 to 2003, specializing in ultra-premium Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Gris. From 2003 to 2011 Knuttel was Executive Winemaker at Dry Creek Vineyard, where he completely re-honed the styles and quality of that winery's extensive portfolio. Knuttel was also ZAP's winemaker in 2005, producing their Heritage Zinfandel, and President of the California Cabernet Society from 1999-2003.

In addition to the William Knuttel wines, Knuttel is partner and winemaker for two other brands: Ottimino, which produces Zinfandel exclusively from the Sonoma Coast, and Teira, producer of premium Sauvignon Blanc, Zinfandel and Merlot.

William Knuttel is a long time resident of Napa Valley. His daughter Kate, a dancer, graduated from California College of the Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, while his son Sebastian, a cellist, studied at UC Santa Cruz, receiving his BA with a major in Mathematics—both are currently part of the family business. Knuttel's hobbies range from golf to genealogy, and he travels often to the Argentine wine region of Cafayate. As an avid music lover, Knuttel developed the Napa Valley Youth Symphony, a non-profit dedicated to bringing professional orchestral experience to talented young musicians, and he currently sits on the board of Berkeley Symphony, where William Knuttel Winery is an official sponsor.



### **Rex Smith, Winemaker & General Manager**

Rex was born and raised on a farm in New Zealand where, at a young age, he first became interested in horticulture. He attended Massey University in New Zealand earning a Bachelor of Horticultural Science degree in 1984, majoring in Viticulture and Oenology.

After graduating he traveled to the Napa Valley to gain hands on winemaking experience, working for Saintsbury Winery for the following three vintages. It was in the cellars at Saintsbury, that he discovered his passion for winemaking and where Bill and Rex's relationship was formed! Subsequently Rex decided to alternate harvests between Napa Valley and the Barossa Valley in South Australia to gain more experience. Rex returned to school to earn his Graduate Diploma in Wine from Roseworthy

Agricultural College in Australia before permanently moving to the Napa Valley.

In 1990 Rex became the Enologist at The Hess Collection Winery, working to develop and implement an extensive analytical and microbiological quality control program. After 2 years working mainly with Mt. Veeder Cabernet and Monterey Chardonnay at Hess, Rex joined Cuvaison Winery as their Assistant Winemaker, and was later promoted to Winemaker over his 6 year tenure. There he furthered his expertise in making Carneros Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Merlot, and Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon.

In 1998 Rex left the Napa Valley to become Winemaker and Vineyard Manager at Heller Estate and Durney Vineyards in Carmel Valley. Rex planned and implemented the development of new vineyards, while revamping their existing vineyard, and focused on making their Mountain Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Chardonnay, and Chenin Blanc wines. In 2001 he returned to the Napa Valley as Winemaker for Vine Cliff Winery where, for the next decade, he specialized in hand-crafted Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Chardonnay wines from their estate vineyards in Oakville, Carneros, Calistoga, and Howell Mountain.

In 2012, Rex re-forged his relationship with Bill and became our Winemaker and General Manager. Here he manages a crew of 5 and our custom crush clients, and he works closely with Bill to make our family's wines, ranging from Robin K—high quality wines with exceptional value—to the William Knuttel ultra-premium wines and Vineyard Designate Series.

Rex lives with his son Dylan, a student at Alta Heights Magnet School, in the Napa Valley. In his spare time he enjoys gardening, sailing, golfing, and hiking. Rex is a member of the Napa Valley Wine Technical Group.

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### **Kate Knuttel, Business Manager**

Kate is Bill's daughter—she was born and raised in the Napa Valley and spent a lot of time running around Saintsbury Winery. In her formative years she attended Napa Valley Royal Academy of Ballet until the age of 18, when she graduated from Vintage High School and relocated to Oakland to attend California College of the Arts (CCA). At both the Oakland and San Francisco campuses, her studies ranged from Studio Art and Critical Studies in Philosophy, to English and Writing, Art History, and Professional Studies. Kate graduated in 2010 with high distinction, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting and Drawing.

After graduation Kate rediscovered her love for dance and began performing around the Bay Area with various small modern dance companies. While being part-time bookkeeper for the winery starting in 2010, she simultaneously worked as a legal assistant in San Francisco. Over the years Kate became a more integral part of the family business, and in 2014 became the full-time Business Manager for William Knuttel Winery—in addition to several other brands managed by the winery.

Kate currently lives in Vallejo with her family. Whenever she has a moment to spare you will find her spending time with them, traveling to parts unknown, and searching for new places to dine. She is a member of CCA's Alumni Association, as well as the institution's 1907 Club.